



Information Resources Center  
U.S. Embassy, Bogota D.C., Colombia

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## BINATIONAL CENTERS' ACTIVITIES

### CARTAGENA

#### **Exodo: Acrylic Paintings Exhibit by Elmer Sanchez Contreras**

The artist Elmer Sanchez was born in Cartagena de Indias in 1977 . He has a Master Degree in Plastic Arts from the Bolivar Fine Arts School.

Exhibitions: Cartagena. July-August 2008.  
Fenalco Gallery. Bogotá.

Beginning with Consequence Art, the artist uses the present to raise questions, seeking to leave us a moral.

In this exhibit, the question posed is: "What would happen if man discovered a planet similar to Earth without human beings, but instead found other living beings?"

This exhibit examines the present day futurism in which our planet lives, thanks to the space race undertaken by man during the 1950's.

This moral goes hand in hand with the apocalyptic sensation that human beings feel every time we believe that life on Earth may become extinct one day.



## BUCARAMANGA

### Students visit “Las Bohemias” exhibition



Forty students from the Gabriel Garcia Marquez School take a guided visit to “Las Bohemias” exhibition registered in the Social Project program of Centro Colombo Americano de Bucaramanga.

The students were accompanied by Ms. Diana Martinez, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art of Bucaramanga

### Homage to Llinás by maestro Camilo del Mar Bañol Ospina

Camilo del Mar’s exhibit was opened at Centro Colombo Americano of Bucaramanga on April 2, 2009, on the day commemorating the International Year of Astronomy in over 130 countries. This Colombian artist uses the chemical interaction produced by several elements in his work. At first glance, his paintings resemble abstract works but they are not. They are space, sidereal landscapes inspired in the images obtained by scientists using the most modern telescopes.



## PEREIRA

### International Education Week



In May, the Centro Colombo Americano Pereira dedicated two weeks to promoting international studies and exchange programs. The cultural committee of the Colombo, along with the Colombo's educational advisor, organized different activities to inform both the students at the Binational Center and the general public of Cartago (May 11 - 15) and Pereira (May 18 - 22) about opportunities to study or participate in an exchange program in the USA.

The educational advisor from the Centro Colombo Americano was in charge of most of the lectures, but a consul from the American Embassy in Bogotá was in Cartago and talked to students and entrepreneurs about

visas and other opportunities in the USA. We also invited people who represent programs like Amity, Au Pair, YMCA, EF, and others.

As part of this event, there was an USA stand featuring information about Universities, English institutes, and exchange programs in the USA. There were also several lectures about such topics as international English tests, the US educational system, Universities in the US, the admission process to American universities, Au Pair and Amity Programs, Fulbright Scholarships and exchange visas for students.

During the two weeks of the program, more than one thousand people attended the conferences and visited the stand. There were students from the Colombo, local high schools and Universities as well as entrepreneurs and the general public from Cartago and Pereira.

It was a very important event in Cartago and Pereira. The Colombo's Educational Advisor appeared on local radio, TV and newspapers talking about the services offered at the EducationUSA office in the Centro Colombo Americano in Pereira y Cartago. This media information was made available for people throughout many towns in Risaralda and the northern regions of Valle del Cauca. Many people came to the Colombo looking for more detailed information about Education US.





## U.S. Vice-Consul Rubani Trimiew's visit to Cartago



To celebrate the week of International Studies, the Centro Colombo Americano – Pereira organized two events: one in Cartago branch (May 11 – 15) and another in Pereira (May 18 – 22).

Taking advantage of the Speaker Program run by the U.S. Information Resources Center, the Cartago event was enhanced by presentations of Mr. Rubani Trimiew, Vice-Consul of the American Embassy in Bogotá.

During the event, Vice-Consul Trimiew lectured high school students about American culture, the American education system and possible access that these students might have to different exchange programs. Mr. Trimiew also met University students, politicians, businessmen, teachers and others from Cartago for a speech about different types of visas and application procedures.

This event was widely promoted in the local media since it was a first for this city.

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## MEDELLIN

### Morgan State University Choir in Medellin

The Centro Colombo Americano in Medellin, with the support of the United States Embassy in Bogota, presented the gospel music choir from Morgan State University which is directed by Eric Conway.

The choir offered shows at the Centro Colombo Americano, the Lido Theater, the Moravia Cultural Development Center (Centro de Desarrollo Cultural de Moravia), and El Tesoro Shopping Mall. Throughout their concerts, the choir delighted 1650 attendees with their music, which emphasizes on the conservation of spiritual values, expressed through their voices and the rhythm of Afro-American music.



## The Centro Colombo Americano presented the Juilliard Jazz Ensemble

With the support of the Embassy of the United States in Colombia, the Centro Colombo Americano brought to Medellín the Juilliard Jazz Ensemble. They are a talented quartet with a broad experience in this genre which incorporates music from renowned composers as well as their own original songs.

The musicians were in the city from June 20 to 26 and carried out a number of free concerts and jazz workshops. More than 1,800 people attended the concerts.

### The Concerts

The group offered a number of free concerts at the Universidad of Medellín Theater, the Founders Auditorium of EAFIT University, and the San Fernando Plaza Business Center. They performed classic and contemporary jazz and showed a unique merge of trumpet, piano, bass, and percussion.

The performances were attended by 2150 people.

### Jazz Workshops

The group also directed a number of workshops in which 45 youngsters of the Medellín Bands and Music Schools Network (Red de Bandas y Escuelas de música de Medellín) and 40 musicians from the Music Department of EAFIT University participated. They exchanged their knowledge with the group and shared cultural experiences.



## Picturing America at the Centro Colombo Americano



On May 7th, the inauguration of the *Picturing America* exhibit took place at the Centro Colombo Americano. The exhibit is a series of pictorial replicas of famous work by North American artists from the 20th century. The sample portrays a number of creations by authors such as Grant Wood, Edward Hopper y Charles Sheller, where the artists captured life in the United States during the industrial birth in the country.

A total of 30 pieces of work that reflected houses and buildings expressing the growth of large cities, as well as the beginning of people's migration to big metropolis such as Boston and New York among others.

This exhibition was organized by the United States Embassy in Colombia and the Centro Colombo Americano in Medellín.

## BARRANQUILLA



On June 6th, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, William R. Brownfield, awarded Sandra Vargas with a full scholarship to the BNC for winning first place in the logo contest for a new youth section of the United States Embassy's website in Colombia. The new section compiles United States information, useful tools to learn English, special dates, a play zone, a world digital library and exchange programs in the U.S.

The awards ceremony celebrated at the Lincoln Gallery was attended by Sandra Vargas's parents, her classmates and the directors of the Binational Center. Sandra is now studying her first semester of the Assistant Administra-

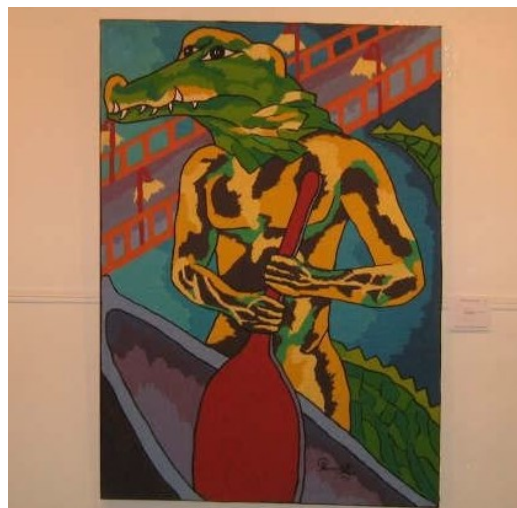
tive Program at our center, and thanks to the full scholarship prize; she will be able to complete her studies. After the ceremony, Ambassador Brownfield visited the new annex building of our Binational Center where the George Washington Public Library, the Education USA Center, the multimedia room and three class rooms are located.

## Exhibit of Artist Carmen Gil "y sigue... La Leyenda del Hombre Caiman"

The Centro Cultural Colombo Americano, inaugurated the exhibit of artist Carmen Gil entitled "Y sigue ... La Leyenda del Hombre Caimán", on Thursday June 18th at the Lincoln Gallery.

Carmen is a master of plastic arts with a major in painting. In addition to painting, she did some sculpture and wood carving which she has used to do her research on "La Leyenda del Hombre Caimán". The theme of this research which is not well known in Barranquilla, allowed Carmen to go to Europe where she was invited to show her work in Germany and in Groningen, Holland, where she painted a mural at the "Centro Cultural de Mujeres JAZMIN". The theme of this mural was a world map for which she used the colors of the "Hombre Caimán".

Some of her personal art exhibits are "El Entorno del Hombre Caimán", Escuela de Bellas Artes, in Cartagena (1997); "Embrujos Caribeños", at Alianza Colombo Francesa Gallery in Barranquilla (1996); "Huellas del Hombre Caimán", at Angela Schiappa's workshop in Cartagena (1995); "Representación del Carnaval" at the Lincoln Gallery in Barranquilla (1995); Centro Cultural de Mujeres JAZMIN in Groningen, Holland (1992); "Metamorfosis" at the Forma Actua Gallery in Groningen, Holland (1992); "El Mirador", in Amsterdam, Holland (1992); "Leer" in Germany (1992).





## CALI

### Colombo-American Mural by Australian Artist

The Australian artist David Garland led a team of Colombian artists in a mural project. The front of our main branch building was a blank canvas that is now a reflection of what it means to be Colombo-American. The concept is of a mixture of two cultures from Elvis Presley wearing a hat from the north coast of Colombia and the Statue of Liberty wearing a “ruana” or typical shawl from Antioquia to a Colombian man wearing a “Sheriff USA” badge on his chest. This mural project brings together the two cultures in a wonderful, colorful blend that shows how we can all learn from each other and live in harmony



### Picturing America in Cali



Through the Embassy, the Colombo Americano in Cali sponsored the Picturing America exhibit in the month of July in collaboration with La Merced museum gallery. The opening ceremony was well attended by the public, and in celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, several teachers took students to visit the exposition and do related activities.